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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I said that I had not received any recommendation for the reduction of the salary. So, the question does not arise at all.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, am I to take it that the Special Officer in charge of the district board has not sent any recommendation?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Government have not received any recommendation. That is what I said.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, is it a fact that in calling for applications for the posts of teachers, only the scales applicable to local bodies were quoted and not the Government scales of pay which the teachers just now are receiving?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I would like to have notice, Sir.

(Purchase of rice

* 88 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether this Government propose to purchase rice either directly or through wholesale merchants in the State of Madras and from other States; and

(*b*) if so, the agency through which it will be sold?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have decided to procure two lakhs tons of rice in this State during the current harvest. The co-operative organizations in the State have been appointed as procuring agents and the stocks so procured will be distributed through Fair Price Shops to be opened by them.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, may I know whether, as against the target of two lakhs tons stipulated by the Government of Madras, so far they were able to procure only two to three thousand tons of rice?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I can tell the hon. Member that it is not two or three thousand tons. It is something more than that. I may also tell the hon. Member that we do not attach very much importance to the quantum of procurement. Procurement is resorted to mainly with a view to effectively enforcing price control.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, so far how much the Government were able to acquire through their agencies?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not have up-to-date figures. Four or five days ago, the figure I had was more than six thousand tons.

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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : May I know, Sir, whether any price has been fixed by the Government for the purchase of rice and, if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. Prices have been fixed. It is at that rate that the purchases are made. These prices are applicable to all transactions whether by Government or others. I do not have the figures of prices now. The prices are fixed according to the varieties of rice and also the varieties of paddy.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Supposing there is disparity between the price fixed by the Government and the price prevailing in the market, what happens? Are the stocks going to be requisitioned? Or, how will the Government be able to procure their necessary stocks?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Dealers are required to sell or purchase only at the prices fixed. They should not exceed the maximum fixed. If anybody contravenes the rules, he will be liable to action being taken against him.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Sir, in some districts, the wholesale merchants refuse to purchase paddy. Has this been brought to the notice of the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. I saw a report in the Press that the wholesale merchants of Salem had proposed nto to co-operate with us, and to give up their business. I do not know how far they meant it.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Sir, may I know whether the purchases are made in all the districts of the State or are confined only to districts like Tanjore?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, price control is applicable to all the districts. It is also proposed to make the purchases in all the districts.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Supposing there is resistance on the part of the big millers or mirasdars to part with their stocks, anticipating better prices later on, what happens? In that contingency, will the Government requisition such stocks?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : In such cases, the Government have got powers to requisition. And Government do propose to requisition such stocks.

Overloading of bullock carts

* 89 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to the supplementary question to Legislative Council Starred Question No. 14 on 2nd November 1957—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to effectively check the overloading of bullock carts and bullock trucks; and